



Hicham Eltal – *Chair*
Stephanie Dietz – *Vice Chair*

July 25, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

CC: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Kamala Harris

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

On behalf of the **Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA (MIUGSA)** I am writing in support of America's Water Supply Infrastructure Act, specifically Sec. 3203, "NON-FEDERAL DAMS," of the Manager's Amendment. This provision would authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) to accept funding from the owners of non-federal reservoir projects for costs associated with review and revision of USACE Water Control Manuals.

This is a significant step forward for Merced Irrigation District's effort to enhance the storage capacity of Lake McClure. This reservoir is a crucial resource in our community, providing water for agriculture, groundwater replenishment in support of domestic use, flood control, as well as benefitting our local environment.

It is crucial to note that the specific legislation cited (Sec. 3203) is narrowly focused on the **owners** of non-federal projects rather than authorizing acceptance by the USACE of funding for manual reviews from the broader "non-federal interests/entities."

The Merced Irrigation District has been working for several years on its Lake McClure Storage Enhancement Project, seeking to increase the capacity of its locally-owned Lake McClure. The proposed project includes helping MID to store approximately 57,000 acre-feet of additional water when it is available. This additional water would help sustain critical surface water supplies for

our community and the environment in dry years, and help sustain our communities' groundwater resources as well.

MID's project includes working with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to update the reservoir's operation manual based on new information and data. Unfortunately, the USACE does not have the funding to undertake reviews of many of its operating manuals. Further, the USACE is unable to accept funds from outside agencies to assist with the updates. This legislation is a crucial step toward addressing this matter. America's Water Supply Infrastructure Act, specifically Sec. 3203, "NON-FEDERAL DAMS," of the Manager's Amendment, is of critical importance to our community and provides a crucial first step in MID's ongoing efforts to enhance the storage of Lake McClure.

On behalf of **MIUGSA**, I want to offer the strongest possible support of this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration



Hicham Eltal
MIUGSA Chairman